

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 140974
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 CU-04 MCT-01 ACDA-10 AID-05
IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-14 /113 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB:RASMITH:MGH
APPROVED BY EA/TB:LLROCKE
-----171726Z 115939 /50

P 171612Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 140974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 6 DETAINEES

REF: STATE 140283

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED AT THE DEPARTMENT
JUNE 16:

QUOTE

DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT APPROXIMATELY 110 STUDENTS,
WORKERS, AND OTHERS ARRESTED ON OCTOBER 6, 1976, OR
SHORTLY THEREAFTER IN THAILAND ARE SOON TO BE BROUGHT
TO TRIAL ON A NUMBER OF CHARGES GROWING OUT OF THE
BRUTAL EVENTS OF THAT DAY: AT LEAST 30 STUDENTS WERE
KILLED, MORE THAN 100 INJURED, AND 1,700 ARRESTED.

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AMONG THOSE TO BE TRIED ARE SUTHAM SAENGPRATUM, FORMER
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF
THAILAND, AND AROM PONGPANGAN, DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE
UNION OF LABORERS OF THAILAND.

WE ARE CONCERNED THAT UNDER THE CURRENT MILITARY GOVERN-
MENT, DUE PROCESS, INCLUDING ACCESS TO LEGAL COUNSEL,

AND THE RIGHT TO AN OPEN, FAIR, AND SPEEDY TRIAL, WILL
NOT BE GRANTED TO ALL THOSE ARRESTED.

WE REQUEST, THEREFORE, THAT AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTEND THESE TRIALS,
TO ENSURE THAT AN OBJECTIVE REPORT REACH AMERICANS WHO
ARE CONCERNED, AS ARE WE, THAT HUMAN RIGHTS BE RESPECTED
AROUND THE WORLD.

THIS GESTURE IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT NOW AS CONGRESS
CONSIDERS LEVELS OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID.
WE ARE CONCERNED THAT U.S. AID BE EXTENDED IN A MANNER
CONSISTENT WITH THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

IN ADDITION, THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL BEGIN
HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAILAND ON JUNE 23, 1977.
WE HOPE THAT FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION REGARDING
THE UPCOMING TRIALS BE TRANSMITTED TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION OF
THIS MATTER. SINCERELY,

JOHN L. BURTON
HELEN MEYNER
BENJAMIN ROSENTHAL
PETE STARK
HERMAN BADILLO
GEORGE BROWN
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BERKLEY BEDELL
RICHARD OTTINGER
DONALD FRASER
STEPHEN SOLARZ
ANDREW MAGUIRE
TOM HARKIN
TOBY MOFFETT
LESTER WOLFF
MEMBERS UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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